

**REMARKS**

Initially, in the Office Action dated May 20, 2005, the Examiner has rejected claims 21-26 and 28-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,361,202 (Doue) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,504,888 (Iwamoto et al.). Claim 27 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Doue and Iwamoto and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,627,783 (Miyachi).

By the present response, Applicants have submitted new claims 34-37 for consideration by the Examiner and submit that these claims do not contain any prohibited new matter. These claims are fully supported in Applicants' specification and drawings, at a minimum, at pg. 19, lines 22-26; pg. 20, lines 5-12; and Figs. 3-5 and 10, specifically steps 501-505 and 701-705. Further, Applicants have canceled claims 21-33 without disclaimer. Claims 34-37 remain pending in the present application.

**35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections**

Claims 21-26 and 28-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Doue in view of Iwamoto et al. Applicants have canceled these claims, therefore, rendering these rejections moot.

Claim 27 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Doue and Iwamoto and further in view of Miyachi. Applicants have canceled this claim, therefore, rendering this rejection moot.

New Claims

Applicants have submitted new claims 34-37 for consideration by the Examiner and submit that these claims are patentable over the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination. Applicants have discussed the deficiencies of the cited references in Applicants' previously-filed response. Applicants provide the following additional remarks.

Regarding new claims 34-37, Applicants submit that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose, suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of these claims of, inter alia, providing, in response to a retrieval request for data stored between a time period in said database, data from a data area when said time information of said bookmark information is determined to be within said time period after reading said bookmark information, or setting, in response to a request for deletion of data stored between a time period in said database, said status information to indicate that said data area is empty when said time information of said bookmark information is determined to be within said time period after reading said bookmark information. Doue merely discloses a patient data information system having time stamp of data records (see, Figs. 2-5; col. 5, lines 1-10 and col. 4, lines 11-12). Further, Iwamoto merely discloses a file updating system having an access inhibit flag in a page used during a batch processing (see, col. 5, lines 61-67). According to the present invention, the intended data can be accessed without resort to index by retrieving thoroughly only the specified control information storage range without retrieving the whole of the database. Further, according to the present invention, in connection with deletion of

data for which a constant time is exceeded, a segment to be deleted can be specified by retrieving the bookmark and the segment as a unit of area management of the database so that the area may be emptied, with the result that deletion can be accomplished within a very short time (e.g., several seconds to several minutes). These features as recited in the claims of the present application are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose, suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of new claims 34-37 of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that these claims be entered and allowed.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger & Malur, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.36133CC2).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.



---

Frederick D. Bailey  
Registration No. 42,282

FDB/sdb  
(703) 684-1120